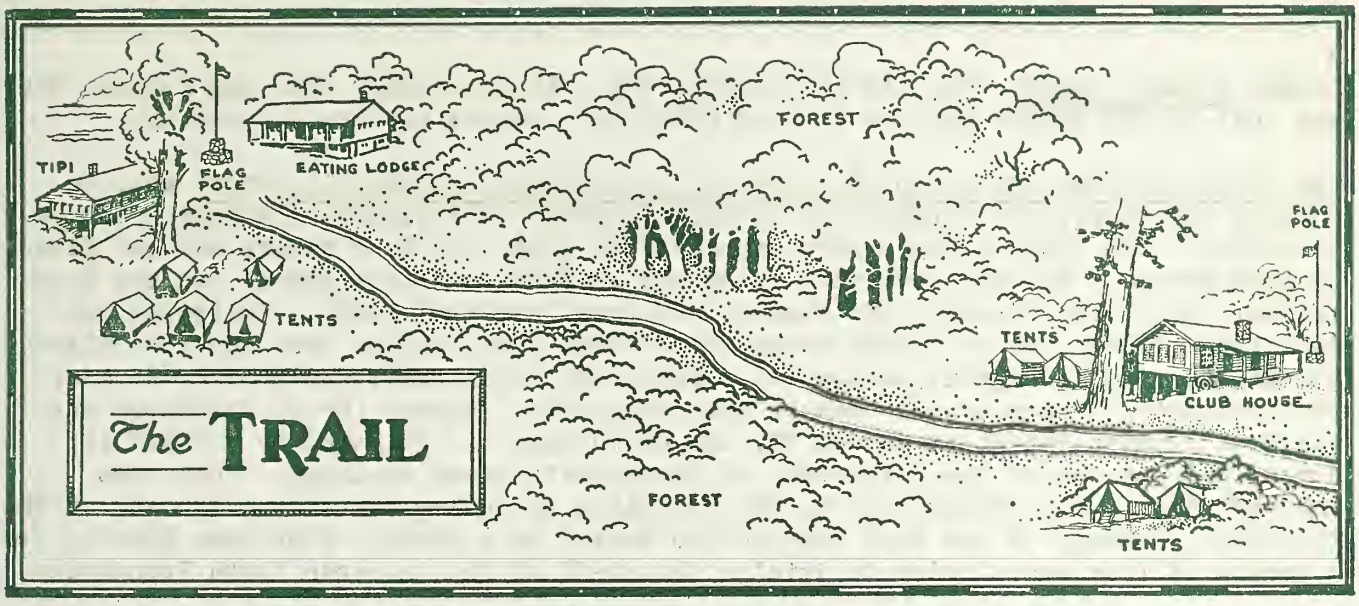

Official Newsletter of the Miniwanca Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps

THE AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION, 3930 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis 8, Mo.

OCTOBER 1944

HI THERE - MINIWANCA CAMPER

Well, here we are, with the 1945 camp just around the corner. It hardly seems possible that in a little more than six months time we will be taking down the shutters from the YB Camp buildings, in preparation for the coming of the 1945 Miniwanca Campers, just about a month later.

And if you doubt that statement, just take a look at the calendar and see how right it is - November, December, January, February, March, April, and then comes May, and it is in May that we begin to polish up the camp and get everything in shipshape order for the opening of YB on the 20th of June. And there you are!

Plans are already under way for the BEST CAMP YET, in 1945. Announcement will be made shortly, telling who will direct YB next summer. The Director will be a Miniwanca-trained Founder leader....one who knows Miniwanca and its program and all that Miniwanca stands for.

The YB Director for the 1945 Camp will carry on the Founder Camp program and tradition. That is one of the fine things about The Founder Camps - the program goes on, in its entirety, without missing a single thing, regardless of who the Director may be.

You see, in many camps, there is no fixed policy or program. Things are left pretty much up to the Director, and if he should happen to be a man of little experience, or one who always wants to be making "changes" - sort of experimenting around, as it were - then you're likely to have confusion and uncertainty, and the camp usually winds up in a general mess.

Now at Camp Miniwanca, and in all the Founder Camps, we are working to a long-term program, or blueprint, as we like to think of it. Every one who directs any of the Founder Camps followsthat blueprint. There is no guessing around - no confusion and uncertainty - no loose organization. Everything is "on the beam," and the program of the camps swings along smoothly and efficiently, year in and year out, and

always moving ahead. That is the Founder Way. It has always been the Founder Way, and that is the reason why the Founder Camps have always been so successful.

Our thanks are due the group of splendid, outstanding YB Camp Directors, who, on through the years, have cooperated so magnificently in following the Founder-Camp blueprint. The Founder Camps were organized in 1914, and last summer was our 31st camping season. YB Camp came into existence in 1930, and last summer was the 15th season. The first Director was Founder Bob (now Chaplain) Lundy. Following Bob came Founder Gus (now Lt. USNR) Gruenewald. Next came Founder Gary (Doctor) Allen, and the Director (Wadjepi) personally directed YB for a year, assisted by Founder Paul McGinnis, a high school teacher from Minnesota. Barney (Dr.D) Blakemore was the next Founder leader to direct YB, and he in turn was followed by "Howie" (Dr) Jones, who was one of the University of Minnesota's great athletes. Then came "Shorty" Morse, and Shorty kept up the tradition of having tried Founders as our YB Directors, because of the fact that he had served as a member of OB Camp Faculty for a period of four years prior to joining the staff of The American Youth Foundation.

A great group of really great Founder men, and these leaders, with the help of a magnificent company of Unit and Departmental staff members, have made YB the wonderful camp that it is. As stated above, every one of these Directors followed the Founder Blueprint, with the result that the campers of 1944 and '43 and '42 have had the same fine program as did the campers of 1930 and '35 and '40. And the 1945 campers will carry on the tradition and follow the Blueprint, under the leadership of a trained and experienced Founder leader whose name will be announced in the near future.

A number of old leaders are already lined up for the 1945 camp, and every effort is being made to have the YB staff completed this fall. We can then begin to work on the perfecting of detailed plans for shaping up the departments, examining the program details to see what improvements can be made, which will make the Miniwanca Blueprint produce a better camp than ever, when we all hit the "Sand Dunes at Miniwanca" in just a little more than eight months from this very date.

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Full details regarding next summer's camps, have already been sent to your parents - all about dates, camp savings club, time limit on the registration of old campers, the $10 bonus credit all old campers get for signing up new campers, and the like.

All YB and Pre-Senior campers should note that places are being reserved for them, and that means for YOU, if you are an old camper, up to and including the first of this coming December. New campers will not receive any general announcements regarding YB and Pre-Senior until after that date, and you old campers have had the chance to get under the wire. After December 1st, general announcements will go out to new camper families, and from then on, all applications will be accepted in the order they come in - both old and new ones - until the camp enrolment limit has been reached. I would say to you boys, get busy at once and notify your parents if you plan to be back in camp next summer, so that they are sure to send your application in before December 1st.

Quite a number of YB Campers have already sent in their registrations, even before the announcements are sent out. Jim Norenberg of the James Norenberg News Agency of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, was the first to pull the trigger of the 1945 YB Registration Gun. On the 28th of July, to be exact, Jim sat him down and wrote a letter to the Director, in which he said, "I have just come home from Camp Miniwanca, and have talked it over with my dad. I am writing now to register for the YB Camp of 1945,

because I know last year, there were many boys left over from camp, who could not come. My father feels that to attend two camps in succession will increase the worth of both. Please notify me when to make my first payment."

Jim, I want to say to you, as a Founder Camper and a twelve- (or is it 13 now, Jim) year-old business man, your're the tops. We will dead sure reserve a place for you and I want to tell you right here and now that there is a place for you at Miniwanca not only for two years in succession, but for as many years as you can find it possible to come, and I hope that will be right on through OB. We want you for one of our leaders, one of these days - - what do you say?

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Well now, for a little Camp News. After you boys left camp, we hustled around and put things in shape for the big Older Girls Camp which came in the following Monday - more than 600 strong, including the leaders. We had to put up 33 groups of girls across the trail in YB. We called it the "Outpost Camp." Ten groups used the YB Eating Lodge as a dormitory. In the morning the Outposters would swing across the trail to the Main Unit, and there we would serve two breakfasts - also two lunches and dinners. The Outposters would stay in the Main Unit most of the day for their classes and activities. At night, after night's doings, a bunch of gasoline lanterns would be lighted and hung up along the trail to YB, and the 200 Outposters would hoof it over to their tents and the Eating Lodge for the night. The last group across the trail would put out the lights.

OB Camp was a whopper, with 333 older fellows and some 50 leaders. They all were put up in the Main Camp. It got pretty cold one or two mornings in OB - down to 46, and you should have heard that big gang of huskies sing "Jingle Bells" and stomp out "The Duke" to keep warm. Best kind of training for the fellows who will soon be in the armed services. That's a great camp, and I hope every one of you boys sometime will have the opportunity of getting into it. Approximately 30 YB Pre-Seniors and Leaders stayed over for OB. Five of the YB Leaders were Chiefs: Ed Sinz, Ralph Howard, Joe Jennings, Joe Arnold, and Dick Killough; and they did a swell job. The Tribal battle was keen, with Chief Ralph Howard of the Crowfeet and Chief Ed Sinz of the Susquehannas battling it out for the lead, all the way. Joe Arnold's Dakotas came next, then Joe Jenning's Iroquois. Dick Killough's Navajo were 5th, and Lyle Fulk's Blackfeet brought up the rear. Moral, Lyle, be a YB Leader!

*****

Looking ahead a bit, we're getting the jump on a lot of things this year, for next year's camps. Before I left Miniwanca, the repairing of the sail boat fleet had gotten under way. All traveler rods, rear of sail boats, were taken to the blacksmith shop and rounded perfectly to make the sail pulleys work smoothly; a new rudder has already been made for the one lost last summer; a new mast, believe it or not, has been made; the sails have already been repaired; and work on the boats in general, taking out work planks and making the boats tight, is now under way. That sail boat fleet is going to be in condition from the very first day, next summer, and the moment war conditions will permit, eight brand new boats will be constructed and the eight we now have will be our #2 line in the growing fleet.

Many new tent platforms will be built. The work may already have started. Cement posts in the tennis courts are being anchored, tight - and I do mean anchored tight. Fifty shuffleboard cues and 100 discs have been ordered; also a new set of oars for all boats, as well as additional canoe paddles and much other equipment for the waterfront - a two-page order went out to a marine supply house yesterday. In YB

kitchen, a new heavy-duty oil hot water heater will be installed, which will furnish piping hot water for dishwashing and shower baths, and the shaky "come-loose" valves at the showers are being replaced with good common-sense wheel valves, so that a fellow really can control the water at the showers. These are just a few of the improvements that are planned for next summer.

But time's up, and we must move along and send you your Camp Roster, so you can get busy addressing your Christmas cards and writing your letters to your camp pals.

Yours, for a great year in FOUR-FOLD LIVING AND A GREAT CAMP NEXT SUMMER,

Wadjepi

P. G. Orwig, Director
The American Youth Foundation

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H E A R Y E ! The next issue of THE TRAIL will be a camper issue...

Here's your chance to break into print. Send your contribution to the Founder office at once -- the thing that impressed you most at camp last summer...,the funniest thing that happened at camp.....some good joke you heard in camp.....any news items - what you and other campers are doing... anything you would like to see in the next issue of THE TRAIL, just send it along. Don't delay. Do it now.

*** ***

1944 YOUNGER BOYS CAMP ROSTER

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